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Fabric softener composition

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(56) Related Art
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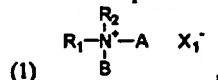
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Fabric Softener Composition

Abstract

The invention relates to a fabric softener composition comprising

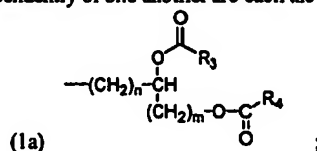
- (a) a water-soluble phthalocyanine of Zn, Fe(II), Ca, Mg, Na, K, Al, Si(IV), P(V), Ti(IV), Ge(IV), Cr(VI), Ga(III), Zr(IV), In(III), Sn(IV) or Hf(VI); and
- (b) a quaternary ammonium compound of the formula



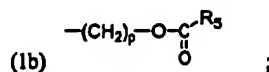
in which

- R₁ and R₂ independently of one another are C₁-C₅alkyl; or hydroxy-C₁-C₅alkyl;

A and B independently of one another are each the radical of the formula



or the radical of the formula



- R₃, R₄ and R₅ independently of one another are a C₈-C₂₀ fatty acid radical;
- X₁⁻ is a softener-compatible anion;

and

m, n and p are numbers from 0 to 5.

- The novel composition is used to obtain good bleaching effects on soiled textile fabrics.

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PATENTS ACT 1980

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

FOR A STANDARD PATENT

ORIGINAL

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Invention Title: Fabric Softener Composition

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the
best method of performing it known to me/us:-

Fabric Softener Composition

The present invention relates to a fabric softener composition and to a process for the bleaching of textile fibre materials using this fabric softener composition.

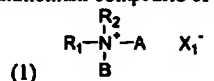
In customary household washing processes for whites, such as bed linen, table linen and white cotton fabrics, the laundry items to be treated are normally subjected to a combined washing and bleaching process in which the items of laundry are treated in an aqueous bath comprising, as active substance, an organic detergent and a bleach. Processes for bleaching or removing stains from textiles using water-soluble phthalocyanine compounds are known, for example, from US-A-3 927 967, US-A-4 094 806 and US-A-4 033 718.

The object of the present invention is to use water-soluble phthalocyanine compounds as photobleaching agent in certain fabric softener compositions comprising, as active substance, ester quats, which are quaternary ammonium compounds having at least one long-chain hydrophobic alkyl or alkenyl group interrupted by carboxyl groups. Fabric softeners containing ester quats are described, for example, in EP-A-0 239 910 or WO 95/24460.

Surprisingly, it has now been found that fabric softener compositions comprising water-soluble phthalocyanine compounds of a cationic, neutral or anionic nature bring about particularly good bleaching effects if textiles are treated in an aqueous fabric softener bath comprising these compositions, the textiles being irradiated with light in the visible and/or infrared region or in the daylight in the fabric softener bath itself or subsequently in the damp state.

The present invention thus relates to a fabric softener composition comprising

- (a) a water-soluble phthalocyanine of Zn, Fe(II), Ca, Mg, Na, K, Al, Si(IV), P(V), Ti(IV), Ge(IV), Cr(VI), Ga(III), Zr(IV), In(III), Sn(IV) or Hf(VI); and
- (b) a quaternary ammonium compound of the formula

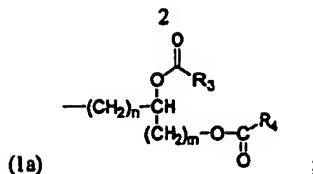


in which

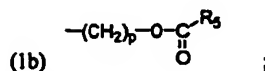
R_1 and R_2 independently of one another are C_1 - C_{25} alkyl; or hydroxy- C_1 - C_{25} alkyl;

A and B independently of one another are each a radical of the formula





or the radical of the formula



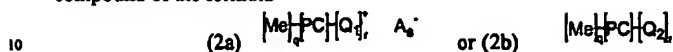
R_3 , R_4 and R_5 independently of one another are a C_8 - C_{20} fatty acid radical;

X_1^- is a softener-compatible anion;

and

m , n and p are numbers from 0 to 5.

The novel composition advantageously comprises, as photobleaching agent, a compound of the formula



in which

PC is the phthalocyanine ring system;

Me is Zn, Fe(II), Ca, Mg, Na, K, Al- Z_1 , Si(IV), P(V), Ti(IV), Ge(IV), Cr(VI), Ga(III), Zr(IV), In(III), Sn(IV) or Hf(VI);

Z_1 is a halide, sulfate, nitrate, acetate, alkoxide carboxylate, or hydroxyl ion;

q is 0, 1 or 2;

r is 1 to 4;

Q_1 is a sulfo or carboxyl group; or a radical of the formula

$-\text{SO}_2\text{X}_2$, $-\text{R}_6$, $-\text{X}_3^+$, $-\text{O}-\text{R}_6$, $-\text{X}_3^+$; or $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{Y}_1^+$;

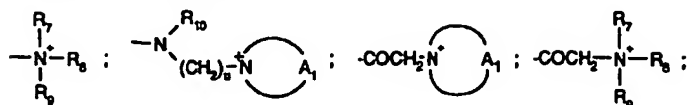
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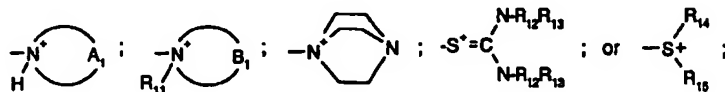
R_6 is a branched or unbranched C_1 - C_8 alkylene; or 1,3- or 1,4-phenylene;

X_2 is $-NH-$; or $-N-C_1-C_8$ alkyl;

X_3^+ is a group of the formula



or, in the case where $R_6 = C_1$ - C_8 alkylene, also a group of the formula



Y_1^+ is a group of the formula $\begin{array}{c} R_{14} \\ | \\ -N^+ A_1 \\ | \\ H \end{array} ; \quad -S^+ \begin{array}{c} R_{14} \\ R_{15} \end{array} ; \quad \text{or} \quad -S^+=C \begin{array}{c} N-R_{12}R_{13} \\ N-R_{12}R_{13} \end{array} ;$

t is 0 or 1;

where in the above formulae

R_7 and R_9 independently of one another are C_1 - C_8 alkyl;

R_8 is C_1 - C_8 alkyl; C_6 - C_7 cycloalkyl; or $NR_{11}R_{12}$;

R_{10} and R_{11} independently of one another are C_1 - C_8 alkyl;

R_{12} and R_{13} independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1 - C_8 alkyl;

R_{14} and R_{15} independently of one another are unsubstituted C_1 - C_8 alkyl or C_1 - C_8 alkyl

substituted by hydroxyl, cyano, carboxyl, carb- C_1 - C_8 alkoxy, C_1 - C_8 alkoxy, phenyl, naphthyl or pyridyl;

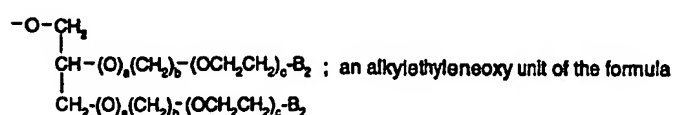
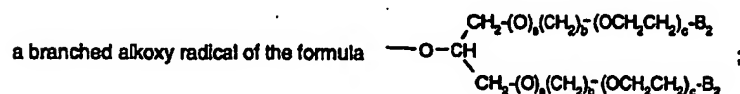
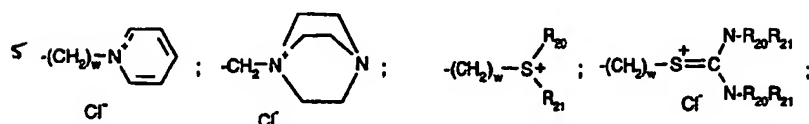
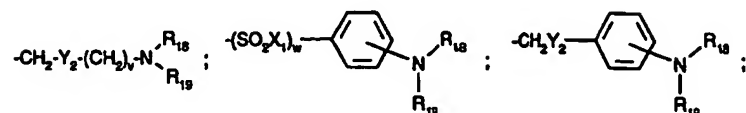
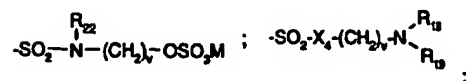
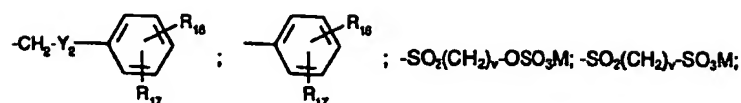
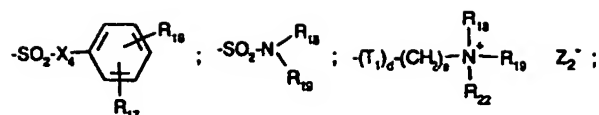
u is from 1 to 6;

A_1 is a unit which completes an aromatic 5- to 7-membered nitrogen heterocycle, which may where appropriate also contain one or two further nitrogen atoms as ring members, and

B_1 is a unit which completes a saturated 5- to 7-membered nitrogen heterocycle, which may where appropriate also contain 1 to 2 nitrogen, oxygen and/or sulfur atoms as ring members;

Q_2 is hydroxyl; C_1 - C_{22} alkyl; branched C_4 - C_{22} alkyl; C_2 - C_{22} alkenyl; branched C_4 - C_{22} alkenyl

and mixtures thereof; C_1 - C_{22} alkoxy; a sulfo or carboxyl radical; a radical of the formula



10 $-(\text{T}_1)_d(\text{CH}_2)_b(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2)_c-\text{B}_2$ or an ester of the formula COOR_{23}
in which

B_2 is hydrogen; hydroxyl; $\text{C}_1\text{--C}_{30}$ alkyl; $\text{C}_1\text{--C}_{30}$ alkoxy; $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$; $-\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$; SO_3M_1^+ ; $-\text{OSO}_3\text{M}_1^+$; $-\text{PO}_3^{2-}\text{M}_1$; $-\text{OPO}_3^{2-}\text{M}_1$; and mixtures thereof;

B_3 is hydrogen; hydroxyl; $-\text{COOH}$; $-\text{SO}_3\text{M}_1^+$; $-\text{OSO}_3\text{M}_1^+$; $\text{C}_1\text{--C}_6$ alkoxy;

15 M_1 is a water-soluble cation;

T₁ is -O-; or -NH-;

X₁ and X₄ independently of one another are -O-; -NH-; or -N-C₁-C₆alkyl;

R₁₅ and R₁₇ independently of one another are hydrogen, a sulfo group and salts thereof, a carboxyl group and salts thereof or a hydroxyl group, at least one of the radicals R₁₅ and R₁₇ being a sulfo or carboxyl group or salts thereof,

Y₂ is -O-, -S-, -NH- or -N-C₁-C₆alkyl;

R₁₈ and R₁₉ independently of one another are hydrogen, C₁-C₆alkyl, hydroxy-C₁-C₆alkyl, cyano-C₁-C₆alkyl, sulfo- C₁-C₆alkyl, carboxy or halogen-C₁-C₆alkyl; unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted by halogen, C₁-C₆alkyl or C₁-C₆alkoxy, sulfo or carboxyl or

R₁₈ and R₁₉ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded are a saturated 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which may additionally also contain a nitrogen or oxygen atom as a ring member;

R₂₀ and R₂₁ independently of one another are C₁-C₆alkyl or aryl-C₁-C₆alkyl radicals;

R₂₂ is hydrogen; an unsubstituted C₁-C₆alkyl or C₁-C₆alkyl substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, cyano, phenyl, carboxyl, carb-C₁-C₆alkoxy or C₁-C₆alkoxy;

R₂₃ is C₁-C₂₂alkyl, branched C₄-C₂₂alkyl, C₁-C₂₂alkenyl or branched C₄-C₂₂alkenyl; C₃-C₂₂glycol; C₁-C₂₂alkoxy; branched C₄-C₂₂alkoxy; and mixtures thereof;

M is hydrogen; or an alkali metal ion or ammonium ion,

Z₂ is a chlorine, bromine, alkylsulfate or aralkylsulfate ion;

a is 0 or 1;

b is from 0 to 6;

c is from 0 to 100;

d is 0; or 1;

e is from 0 to 22;

v is an integer from 2 to 12;

w is 0 or 1; and

A is an organic or inorganic anion, and

s is equal to r in cases of monovalent anions A⁻ and is ≤ r in cases of polyvalent anions, it being necessary for A_s⁻ to compensate the positive charge; where, when r ≠ 1, the radicals Q₁ can be identical or different,

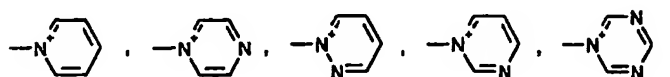
and where the phthalocyanine ring system may also comprise further solubilising groups.

The number of substituents Q_1 and Q_2 in the formula (2a) and (2b) respectively, which may be identical or different, is between 1 and 8, and it is not imperative, as is generally the case with phthalocyanines, for it to be an integer (degree of substitution). If other noncationic substituents are present, the sum of the latter and the cationic substituents is between 1 and

- 5 4. The minimum number of substituents which must be present in the molecule is governed by the solubility of the resulting molecule in water. It is sufficiently soluble in water when enough of the phthalocyanine compound dissolves to effect a photodynamically catalysed oxidation on the fibre. A solubility as low as 0.01 mg/l may suffice, although one of from 0.001 to 1 g/l is generally advantageous.

6 Halogen means fluorine, bromine or, in particular, chlorine.

Especially suitable groups $-N^+ \text{---} A_1$ are:



Preference is given to the group $-N^+ \text{---} A_1$;

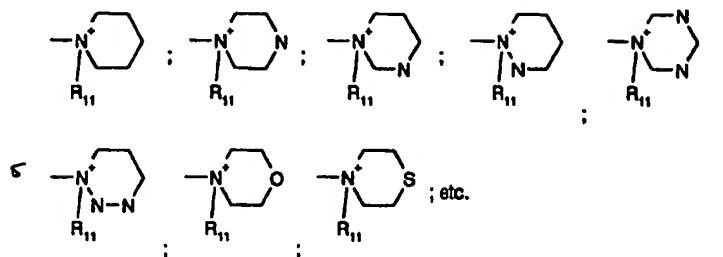
- 5 Suitable heterocyclic rings in the group $\text{---} A_1 \text{---} N^+ \text{---} R_{11}$ are likewise the groups listed

above, the bond to the other substituents merely being via a carbon atom.

In all of these substituents, phenyl, naphthyl and aromatic hetero rings may be substituted by one or two further radicals, for example by C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, halogen, carboxyl, carb- C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, hydroxyl, amino, cyano, sulfo, sulfonamido, etc.

Preference is given to a substituent from the group C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy, halogen, carboxyl, carb-C₁-C₆alkoxy or hydroxyl.

Particularly suitable groups $\begin{array}{c} \text{---N}^+ \\ | \\ R_{11} \end{array} \text{---} \text{B}_1$ are:



All of the aforementioned nitrogen heterocycles can also be substituted by alkyl groups, either on a carbon atom or on another nitrogen atom in the ring. The alkyl group is preferably the methyl group.

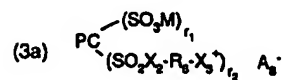
A_s⁻ in formula (2a) is, as a counterion to the positive charge on the remainder of the molecule, any anion. In general, it is introduced by the preparation process (quaternization). It is then preferably a halogen ion, an alkylsulfate or an arylsulfate ion. Arylsulfate ions which may be mentioned are the phenylsulfonate, p-tolylsulfonate and the p-chlorophenylsulfonate ion. The anion can however also be any other anion since the anions can be readily exchanged in a known manner; A_s⁻ can thus also be a sulfate, sulfite, carbonate, phosphate, nitrate, acetate, oxalate, citrate, lactate ion or another anion of an organic carboxylic acid. The index s is the same as r for monovalent anions. For polyvalent anions, s has a value ≤ r, in which case it must be chosen, depending on the conditions, such that it exactly balances the positive charge on the remainder of the molecule.

C₁-C₆alkyl and C₁-C₆alkoxy are straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkoxy radicals, such as, for example, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, amyl, isoamyl, tert-amyl or hexyl or methoxy, ethoxy, n-propoxy, isopropoxy, n-butoxy, sec-butoxy, tert-butoxy, amyloxy, isoamyloxy, tert-amyloxy or hexyloxy.

C₂-C₂₂alkenyl is, for example, allyl, methallyl, isopropenyl, 2-butenyl, 3-butenyl, isobutenyl, n-penta-2,4-dienyl, 3-methyl-but-2-enyl, n-oct-2-enyl, n-dodec-2-enyl, iso-dodecenyl, n-dodec-2-enyl or n-octadec-4-enyl.

The C₈-C₂₀ fatty acid radicals defined for the quaternary ammonium compounds of the formula (1) are derived from saturated or unsaturated fatty acids, such as, for example, from capric, lauric, myristic, palmitic, stearic, dodecyl; pentadecyl; hexadecyl or oleyl acid; or decanoic, dodecanoic, tetradecanoic, hexadecanoic, oleic, linoleic, linolenic, ricinoleic acid, coconut fatty acid, or preferably tallow fatty acid.

Preferred photobleaching agents of the formula (2a) of the novel composition have the formula



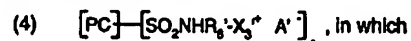
In which

PC, X₂, X₃, and R₆ are as defined above;

M is hydrogen, an alkali metal ion, ammonium ion or amine salt ion;

and the sum of the numbers r₁ and r₂ is from 1 to 4 and

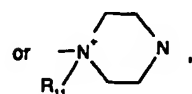
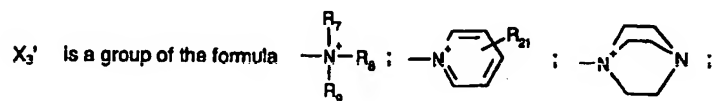
A_s balances exactly the positive charge on the remainder of the molecule, and in particular the formula



PC is as defined in formula (2a),

R₆' is C₂-C₆alkylene;

r₁ is a number from 1 to 4;



in which

R_7 and R_8 independently of one another are unsubstituted C_1-C_4 alkyl or C_1-C_4 alkyl substituted by hydroxyl, cyano, halogen or phenyl;

R_9 is R_7 ; cyclohexyl or amino;

R_{11} is C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R_{21} is C_1-C_4 alkyl; C_1-C_4 alkoxy; halogen, carboxyl, carb- C_1-C_4 alkoxy or hydroxyl; and

A' is a halide, alkylsulfate or arylsulfate ion;

it being possible for the radicals $-SO_2NHR'_9-X_3-A'$ to be identical or different.

Other photobleaching agents which can be used according to the invention have the formula



in which

PC is the phthalocyanine ring system;

Me is Zn, Fe(II), Ca, Mg, Na, K, Al- Z_1 , Si(IV), P(V), Ti(IV), Ge(IV), Cr(VI), Ga(III), Zr(IV), In(III), Sn(IV) or Hf(VI);

Z_1 is a halide, sulfate, nitrate, carboxylate, alkanolate, or hydroxyl ion;

q is 0; 1; or 2;

Y_3 is hydrogen, an alkali metal ion or ammonium ion; and

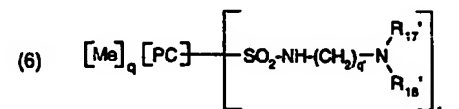
r is any number from 1 to 4.

Very particularly preferred phthalocyanine compounds have the formula (5), in which

Me is Zn or Al- Z_1 ; and

Z_1 is a halide, sulfate, nitrate, carboxylate, alkanolate, or hydroxyl ion.

Other interesting phthalocyanine compounds which can be used according to the invention have the formula



in which

PC, Me and q are as defined in formula (5);

R_{17}' and R_{18}' independently of one another are hydrogen, phenyl, sulfo-phenyl, carboxyphenyl, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, hydroxy- C_1 - C_6 alkyl, cyano- C_1 - C_6 alkyl, sulfo- C_1 - C_6 alkyl, carboxy- C_1 - C_6 alkyl or halogen- C_1 - C_6 alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom form the morpholine ring;

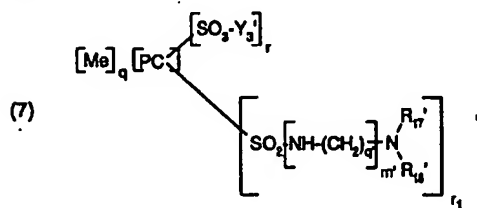
q' is an integer from 2 to 6; and

r is a number from 1 to 4;

where, if r is > 1 , the radicals $-\text{SO}_2\text{-NH}(\text{CH}_2)_{q'}\text{-N} \begin{matrix} R_{17}' \\ R_{18}' \end{matrix}$

present in the molecule may be identical or different.

Further interesting phthalocyanine compounds which can be used according to the invention 10 have the formula



In which

PC, Me and q are as defined in formula (5),

Y_3 is hydrogen, an alkali metal ion or ammonium ion,

q' is an integer from 2 to 6;

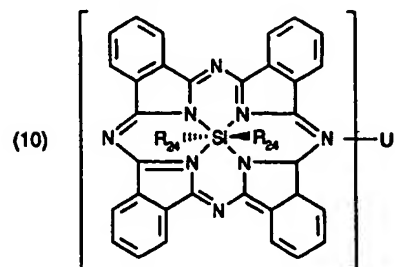
R_{17}' and R_{18}' independently of one another are hydrogen, phenyl, sulfo-phenyl, carboxyphenyl, C_1 - C_6 alkyl, hydroxy- C_1 - C_6 alkyl, cyano- C_1 - C_6 alkyl, sulfo- C_1 - C_6 alkyl, carboxy- C_1 - C_6 alkyl or halogen- C_1 - C_6 alkyl or together with the nitrogen atom form the morpholine ring;

m' is 0 or 1; and

r and r_1 independently of one another are any number from 0.5 to 3, the sum $r + r_1$ being at least 1, but no more than 4.

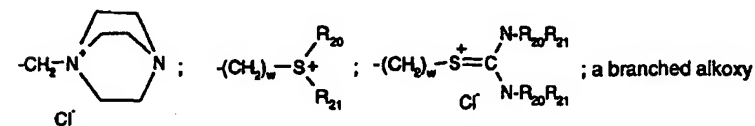
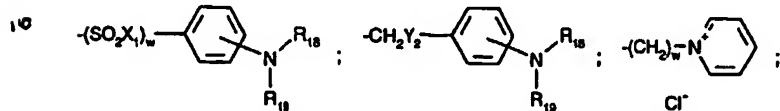
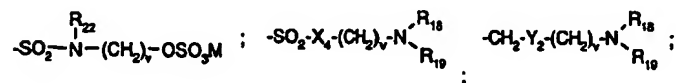
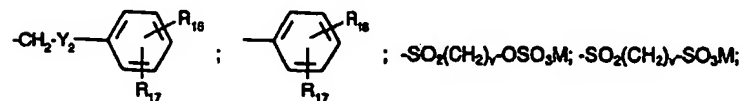
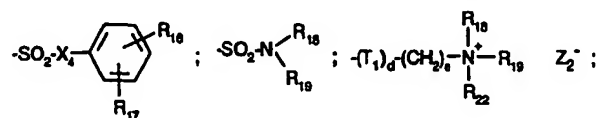
If the central atom Me in the phthalocyanine ring is Si(IV), the phthalocyanines used according to the invention may also have axial substituents ($= R_{24}$) in addition to the

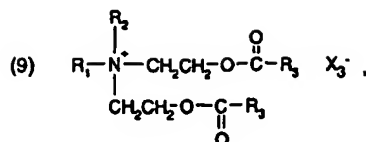
substituents on the phenyl ring of the phthalocyanine ring. Such phthalocyanines have, for example, the formula



in which

- 5 R_{24} is hydroxyl; C_1 - C_{22} alkyl; branched C_4 - C_{22} alkyl; C_1 - C_{22} alkenyl; branched C_4 - C_{22} alkenyl and mixtures thereof; C_1 - C_{22} alkoxy; a sulfo or carboxyl radical; a radical of the formula





in which

R_1 and R_2 are C_1 - C_{20} alkyl;

R_3 is the aliphatic radical of tallow fatty acid and

X_3^- is a halogen atom.

Preference is given to using fabric softener compositions comprising

- (a) a water-soluble phthalocyanine of the formula (5); and
- (b) a quaternary ammonium compound of the formula (8).

Preference is also given to using fabric softener compositions comprising

- (a) a water-soluble phthalocyanine of the formula (10) and
- (b) a quaternary ammonium compound of the formula (8).

The photobleaching agents used according to the invention are used in the fabric softener composition only in small amounts and thus have a catalytic effect.

The novel fabric softener compositions preferably comprise from 0.0001 to 0.05 % by weight, preferably from 0.001 to 0.005% by weight, of component (a) and from 1 to 20% by weight, preferably from 5 to 20% by weight, of component (b).

The novel fabric softener composition may also comprise additives customary for standard commercial fabric softeners, such as alcohols, such as, for example, ethanol, n-propanol, i-propanol, polyhydric alcohols, such as, for example, glycerol and propylene glycol;

amphoteric and nonionic surfactants, such as, for example, carboxyl derivatives of imidazole, oxethylated fatty alcohols, hydrogenated and ethoxylated castor oil, alkyl polyglycosides, for example decylpolyglucose and dodecylpolyglucose, fatty alcohols, fatty acid esters, fatty acids, ethoxylated fatty acid glycerides or fatty acid partial glycerides; also relatively small amounts of dyes, perfumes, buffer substances, inorganic or organic salts, such as, for example, water-soluble potassium, sodium or magnesium salts, non-aqueous solvents, pH

buffers, hydrotropic agents, antifoams, corrosion inhibitors, antiredeposition agents, viscosity regulators, in particular polymeric or other thickeners, stabilisers, enzymes, optical brighteners, antishrink agents, stain removers, antimicrobial agents, germicides, fungicides, antioxidants, and antcrease agents.

- 5 The novel fabric softener composition is usually liquid. The active ingredients present therein are preferably emulsified in water. Preparation usually involves firstly stirring the active substance, i.e. the quaternary ammonium compound of the formula (1) in the molten state into water, then, where required, adding further desired additives and, finally, after cooling, adding the phthalocyanine compound as a diluted stock solution.
- 10 Another subject-matter of the invention is a process for the bleaching of textiles using a photobleaching agent, which comprises treating soiled textiles in a bath of a fabric softener composition comprising
- (a) a water-soluble phthalocyanine of Zn, Fe(II), Ca, Mg, Na, K, Al, Si(IV), P(V), Ti(IV), Ge(IV), Cr(VI), Ga(III), Zr(IV), In(III), Sn(IV) or Hf(VI) phthalocyanine; and
- 15 (b) a quaternary ammonium compound of the formula (1), with irradiation with visible and/or infrared light or daylight, either on the fabric softener bath directly or on the damp textiles outside the fabric softener bath, and in the presence of oxygen.

- The novel composition is used in the manner customary for known fabric softeners, the
- 20 photobleaching agent only becoming effective upon irradiation with light, as described, for example, in US-A-4,166,718. For example, textiles washed in a customary washing cycle are post-treated in a liquor comprising a novel fabric softener composition in a rinsing operation. Irradiation with visible and/or infrared light can be carried out directly in the fabric softener liquor, for example using a suitable artificial light source in the washing machine. Irradiation
- 25 can, however, also be preferably carried out after the textiles have been removed from the rinsing bath in the damp state, the light source used preferably being sunlight. In this case, exposure can suitably be carried out while the textiles are drying. If the textiles are not dried on a line, but, for example, in a tumblodryer, exposure may also take place during this drying process, for example using a suitable artificial light source, fixed to or in the tumblodryer. For
- 30 the photobleaching agent to be effective, the presence of oxygen is also required. The oxygen present (dissolved) in the wash liquor (the liquor should as far as possible contain no

reducing agent) or the (dissolved) oxygen which is present in the liquor or atmospheric oxygen when exposure takes place outside the bath is sufficient.

Examples of suitable textile fibre materials which may be treated with the novel fabric softener composition are materials made of silk, wool, polyamide or polyurethanes, and in particular cellulosic fibre materials of all types. Examples of such fibre materials are the natural cellulose fibres, such as cotton, linen, jute and hemp, and also pulp and regenerated cellulose. Preference is given to textile fibre materials made of cotton. The novel fabric softener compositions are also suitable for hydroxyl group-containing fibres which are present in mixed fibres, for example mixtures of cotton with polyester fibres or polyamide fibres.

The effect of the photobleaching agent considerably improves removal of stains from the treated fabric. In addition, colour transfer between individual fabric articles can be prevented or reduced.

Furthermore, the novel composition has the advantage that the effect of the essential components is not mutually influenced, so that the bleaching effect of the photobleaching agent is not impaired by the quaternary ammonium compound and vice versa.

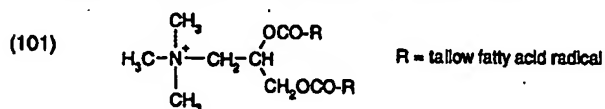
The examples below serve to illustrate the invention without limiting it thereto.



Examples 1 to 4: Preparation of the fabric softener formulations

Table 1					
Example	Concentration of the formulation (102) [%]	Amount of the formulation (102) used [g]	amount of water used [g]	Amount of compound of the formula (102) [mg]	Compound of the formula (102) based on fabric softener formulation [%]
1-	0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.0
2	0.0038	0.9	0.0	0.345	0.00115
3	0.23	0.45	0.45	1.035	0.00345
4.	0.23	0.9	0.0	2.074	0.00690

29.1 g of a fabric softener comprising, as active substance 4.5 g (15% with respect to the fabric softener formulation), of the compound of the formula



15 are introduced initially into a 50 ml bottle. 0.9 g of water or a mixture of water and the given amount of the formulation comprising as active substance a compound of the formula (102) $\text{AlClPC}(\text{SO}_3\text{H})_{3-4} \text{Na}$ are added thereto. The bottle is then screwed tightly shut and vigorously shaken several times.

20 A viscous homogeneous liquid is formed.

Example 5:

a) A 250 g cotton fabric soiled with red wine and 750 g of bleached cotton fabric used as ballast are washed at 30°C in 10 l of water using a commercially available detergent in a washing machine for 15 minutes.

25 After the washing operation, the washed cotton fabric is rinsed under running water.

b) A second rinsing operation is carried out using the formulations from Examples 1 to 4. For this purpose, the two laundry articles washed and rinsed under a) are washed with 6 l of water and 30 g of each of the formulations from Examples 1 to 4 for 5 minutes at 30°C in a washing machine. The items of laundry are then spun dry.

5 1 part of the items of laundry treated in this way is subsequently ironed dry, and the other part is exposed in the damp state under Osram lamps for 2 hours and subsequently ironed dry.

The degree of bleaching of the test fabric is then measured using a photometer in the form of brightness values (=Y), expressed in %, based on the absolute whiteness in accordance 10 with the CIE recommendation of 1.1.1969. The results obtained are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2				
Formulation from Example	without exposure		with exposure for 2 hours	
	Y [%]	ΔY	Y [%]	ΔY
1	68.1		71.1	
2	67.9	-0.2	74	2.9
3	67.3	-0.8	75.9	4.8
4	67.6	-0.5	77.8	6.7

The results show that significantly higher brightness values are achieved using the novel 10 fabric softener composition after exposure for two hours.

Example 6: The procedure is as described in Example 5, with the difference that cotton fabric soiled with tea is used.

The results are given in Table 3:

Table 3				
Formulation from Example	without exposure		with exposure for 2 hours	
	Y [%]	ΔY	Y [%]	ΔY
1	58.1		59.1	
2	58.2	0.1	60.5	1.4
3	58	-0.1	61.2	2.1
4	57.9	-0.2	63.3	4.2

The results show that significantly higher brightness values are achieved using the novel fabric softener composition after exposure for two hours.

Example 7: The procedure is as described in Example 5, with the difference that cotton fabric soiled with coffee is used.

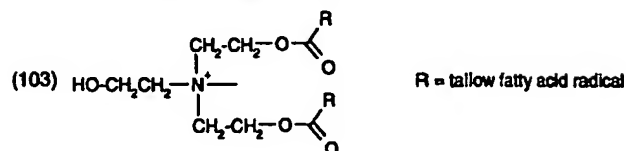
The results are given in Table 4:

Table 4						
Formulation from Example	without exposure		with exposure for 2 hours		with exposure for 4 hours	
	Y [%]	ΔY	Y [%]	ΔY	Y [%]	ΔY
1	79.4		81.2		83.4	
2	78.6	-0.8	84.5	3.3	87	3.6
3	78.6	-0.8	86.3	5.1	88.7	5.3
4	78.7	-0.7	86.5	5.3	89	5.6

The results show that significantly higher brightness values are achieved using the novel fabric softener composition after exposure for 2 and 4 hours.

Example 8: Preparation of a fabric softener formulation

7.5 g of the compound of the formula



are diluted with water to 40 g and stirred at 50-60°C in a water bath to give a homogeneous paste, giving a 18.75% strength aqueous formulation of the compound of the formula (103) (= formulation 8a).

0.15 g of a 2% strength solution of the compound of the formula (102) and 1.85 g of water are added to 8.0 g of this paste, and the whole mixture is stirred at 50-60°C in a water bath to give a homogeneous paste.

- 10 The resulting fabric softener formulation comprises
15.% of the compound of the formula (103) and
0.00345 % of the compound of the formula (102)
(= formulation 8b).

Example 9: Washing test

15 a. Washing with test detergent

1 kg of fabric, consisting of 250 g of cotton fabric soiled with red wine, coffee and tea, and
750 g of bleached cotton fabric as ballast are washed with
10 litres of water and

- 40 g of a 16% alkylarylsulfonate, 40% of sodium triphosphate, 4% of fatty alcohol sulfate,
20 4% of sodium silicate, 2% of magnesium silicate and 3% of syndet soap comprising coconut
acid ethanolamine (serves as test detergent)
for 15 minutes at 30°C in a Linetest laboratory washing machine.

After the wash, the fabric is rinsed under running water.

b. Rinsing with the formulation from Example 8

1000 g of the cotton fabric washed in a. are rinsed with 6 litres of water and 30 g of the rinse formulations 8a and 8b for 5 minutes at 30°C in a washing machine and subsequently spun dry.

5 1 part of the fabric is ironed dry.

1 part of the fabric soiled with wine and coffee is exposed in the damp state to Osram lamps for 4 hours and subsequently ironed dry.

The fabric soiled with tea is exposed in the damp state using Osram lamps for 2 hours and subsequently ironed dry.

10 Furthermore, the rinsing and exposure process in the case of the fabric soiled with tea is repeated three times and five times (1, 3 or 5 cycles). The results are given in Table 5.

Table 5: Results of the washing test of the fabric soiled with red wine or coffee

	fabric soiled with red wine Y(Start) = 52.3				fabric soiled with coffee Y(Start) = 73.7			
	without exposure		with exposure for 4 hours		without exposure		with exposure for 4 hours	
	Y	ΔY	Y	ΔY	Y	ΔY	Y	ΔY
Formulation 8a)	66.1		66.2		77.9		80.2	
Formulation 8b)	65.0	1.1	71.5	5.3	79.4	1.5	86.9	6.7

20 The results show that significantly higher brightness values are achieved with the novel fabric softener composition after exposure for 4 hours.

Table 6: Results of the washing test of the fabric soiled with tea												
Exposure	fabric soiled with tea Y(Start) = 35.5											
	after 1 washing cycle				after 3 washing cycles				after 5 washing cycles			
	none		2 hours		none		2 hours		none		2 hours	
	Y	ΔY	Y	ΔY	Y	ΔY	Y	ΔY	Y	ΔY	Y	ΔY
Formulation 8a)	40.6		40.7		41.2		44.7		41.3		49.9	
Formulation 8b)	40.2	-0.4	43.4	2.7	41.6	0.4	53.4	8.7	41.6	0.3	63.5	13.6

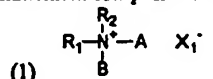
The results show that significantly higher brightness values are achieved using the novel fabric softener composition.

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A fabric softener composition comprising

(a) a water-soluble phthalocyanine of Zn, Fe(II), Ca, Mg, Na, K, Al, Si(IV), P(V), Ti(IV), Ge(IV), Cr(VI), Ga(III), Zr(IV), In(III), Sn(IV) or Hf(VI); and

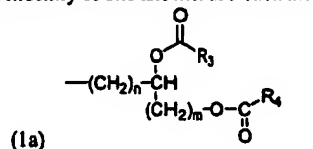
(b) a quaternary ammonium compound of the formula



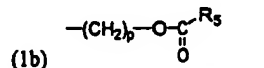
in which

R_1 and R_2 independently of one another are C_1 - C_5 alkyl; or hydroxy- C_1 - C_5 alkyl;

A and B independently of one another are each the radical of the formula



or the radical of the formula



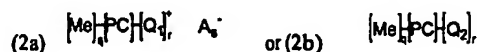
R_3 , R_4 and R_5 independently of one another are a C_8 - C_{20} fatty acid radical;

X_1^- is a softener-compatible anion;

and

m , n and p are numbers from 0 to 5.

2. A composition according to claim 1, which comprises a phthalocyanine of the formula



in which

PC is the phthalocyanine ring system;

Me is Zn, Fe(II), Ca, Mg, Na, K, Al-Zr, Si(IV), P(V), Ti(IV), Ge(IV), Cr(VI), Ga(III), Zr(IV), In(III), Sn(IV) or Hf(VI);

Z_1 is a halide, sulfate, nitrate, acetate, alkoxide carboxylate or hydroxyl ion;

q is 0, 1 or 2;

r is 1 to 4;

Q_1 is a sulfo or carboxyl group; or a radical of the formula

$-\text{SO}_2\text{X}_2\text{-R}_6\text{-X}_3^+$, $-\text{O-R}_6\text{-X}_3^+$; or $-(\text{CH}_2)_r\text{-Y}_1^+$;

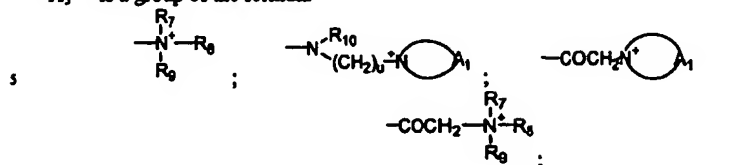


in which

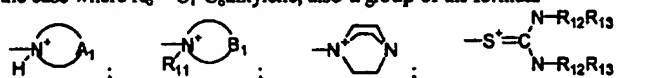
R_6 is a branched or unbranched C_1 - C_8 alkylene; or 1,3- or 1,4-phenylene;

X_2 is $-NH-$; or $-N-C_1-C_3$ alkyl;

X_3^+ is a group of the formula



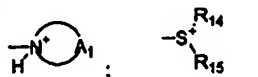
or, in the case where $R_6 = C_1$ - C_8 alkylene, also a group of the formula



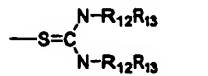
or



Y_1^+ is a group of the formula



or



t is 0 or 1;

where in the above formulae

R_7 and R_8 independently of one another are C_1 - C_6 alkyl;

R_9 is C_1 - C_6 alkyl; C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl; or $NR_{11}R_{12}$;

R_{10} and R_{11} independently of one another are C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

R_{12} and R_{13} independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1 - C_3 alkyl;

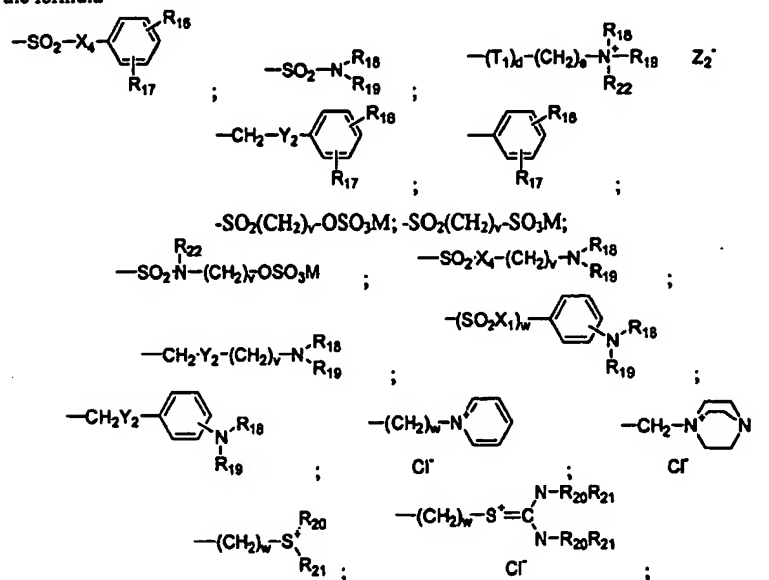
R_{14} and R_{15} independently of one another are unsubstituted C_1 - C_6 alkyl or C_1 - C_6 alkyl substituted by hydroxyl, cyano, carboxyl, carb- C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, phenyl, naphthyl or pyridyl;

u is from 1 to 6;

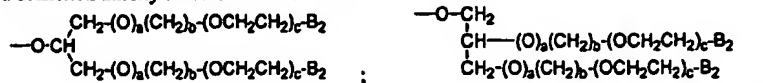
A_1 is a unit which completes an aromatic 5- to 7-membered nitrogen heterocycle, which may where appropriate also contain one or two further nitrogen atoms as ring members, and

B₁ is a unit which completes a saturated 5- to 7-membered nitrogen heterocycle, which may where appropriate also contain 1 to 2 nitrogen, oxygen and/or sulfur atoms as ring members;

Q₂ is hydroxyl; C₁-C₂₂alkyl; branched C₄-C₂₂alkyl; C₂-C₂₂alkenyl; branched C₄-C₂₂alkenyl and mixtures thereof; C₁-C₂₂alkoxy; a sulfo or carboxyl radical; a radical of the formula



a branched alkoxy radical of the formula



an alkylethyleneoxy unit of the formula $\text{---(T}_1\text{)}_d\text{---(CH}_2\text{)}_b\text{---(OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{)}_a\text{---B}_3$ or an ester of the formula COOR_{23} in which

B₂ is hydrogen; hydroxyl; C₁-C₃₀alkyl; C₁-C₃₀alkoxy; $\text{---CO}_2\text{H}$; CH_2COOH ; $\text{SO}_3^{\cdot-}$; M_1^+ ; $\text{---OSO}_3\text{M}_1^+$; ---PO_3^{2-} ; M_1 ; $\text{---OPO}_3^{2-}\text{M}_1$; and mixtures thereof;

B₃ is hydrogen; hydroxyl; ---COOH ; $\text{---SO}_3\text{M}_1^+$; $\text{---OSO}_3\text{M}_1^+$; C₁-C₆alkoxy;

M₁ is a water-soluble cation;

T₁ is ---O--- ; or ---NH--- ;

X₁ and X₄ independently of one another are ---O--- ; ---NH--- ; or $\text{---N---C}_1\text{---C}_5\text{alkyl}$;

R₁₆ and R₁₇ independently of one another are hydrogen, a sulfo group and salts thereof, a carboxyl group and salts thereof or a hydroxyl group, at least one of the radicals R₁₆ and R₁₇ being a sulfo or carboxyl group or salts thereof,

Y₂ is -O-; -S-; -NH- or -N-C₁-C₃alkyl;

5 R₁₈ and R₁₉ independently of one another are hydrogen, C₁-C₆alkyl, hydroxy-C₁-C₆alkyl, cyano-C₁-C₆alkyl, sulfo-C₁-C₆alkyl, carboxyl or halogen-C₁-C₆alkyl; unsubstituted phenyl or phenyl substituted by halogen, C₁-C₄alkyl or C₁-C₄alkoxy, sulfo or carboxyl or R₁₈ and R₁₉ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded are a saturated 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring which may additionally also contain a
10 nitrogen or oxygen atom as a ring member;

R₂₀ and R₂₁ independently of one another are C₁-C₆alkyl or aryl-C₁-C₆alkyl radicals;

R₂₂ is hydrogen; or unsubstituted C₁-C₆alkyl or C₁-C₃alkyl substituted by halogen, hydroxyl, cyano, phenyl, carboxyl, carb-C₁-C₆alkoxy or C₁-C₆alkoxy;

R₂₃ is C₁-C₂₂alkyl, branched C₄-C₂₂alkyl, C₁-C₂₂alkenyl or branched C₄-
15 C₂₂alkenyl; C₃-C₂₂glycol; C₁-C₂₂alkoxy; branched C₄-C₂₂alkoxy; and mixtures thereof;

M is hydrogen; or an alkali metal ion or ammonium ion,

Z₂ is a chlorine, bromine, alkylsulfate or aralkylsulfate ion;

a is 0 or 1;

b is from 0 to 6;

20 c is from 0 to 100;

d is 0 or 1;

e is from 0 to 22;

v is an integer from 2 to 12;

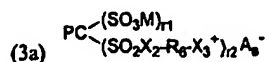
w is 0 or 1; and

25 A is an organic or inorganic anion, and

s is equal to r in cases of monovalent anions A⁻ and is ≤ r in cases of polyvalent anions, it being necessary for A_r⁻ to compensate the positive charge; where, when r ≠ 1, the radicals Q₁ can be identical or different,

and where the phthalocyanine ring system may also comprise further solubilising groups.

30 3. A composition according to claim 1 or 2 which comprises a phthalocyanine of the formula



in which

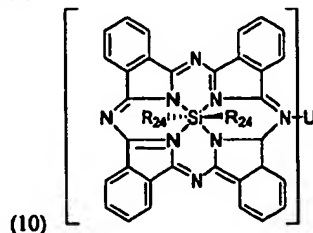
PC, X₂, X₃, and R₆ are as defined in claim 2;



Me is Zn or Al-Z₁; and

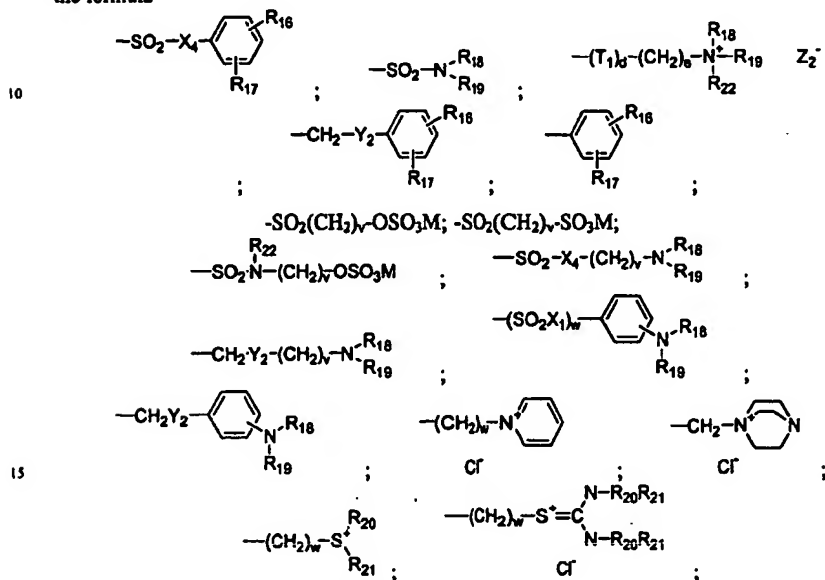
Z₁ is a halide, sulfate, nitrate, acetate, alkoxide carboxylate or hydroxyl ion.

7. A composition according to claim 1, 2 or 5, which comprises a phthalocyanine of the formula

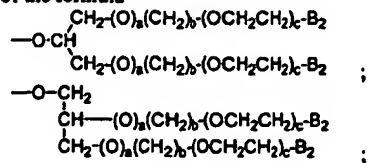


in which

R₂₄ is hydroxyl; C₁-C₂₂alkyl; branched C₄-C₂₂alkyl; C₁-C₂₂alkenyl; branched C₄-C₂₂alkenyl and mixtures thereof; C₁-C₂₂alkoxy; a sulfo or carboxyl radical; a radical of the formula



a branched alkoxy radical of the formula



an alkylethyleneoxy unit of the formula $-(T_1)_d-(CH_2)_b(OCH_2CH_2)_e-B_3$ or an ester of the formula $COOR_{23}$; and

U is $[Q_1]^+A_4^-$ or Q_2 ; and

$R_{16}, R_{17}, R_{18}, R_{19}, R_{20}, R_{21}, R_{22}, R_{23}, B_2, B_3, M, M_1, Q_1, Q_2, A_4, T_1, X_1, Y_2, Z_2, a, b, c, d, e,$

5 $r, v, w,$ are as defined in the formulae (2a) and (2b).

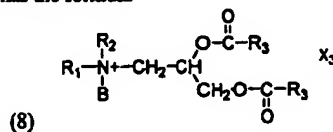
8. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the quaternary ammonium compound has the formula (1), in which

X_1 is a halogen atom; $-CH_3SO_4^-$; $-C_2H_5SO_4^-$; or $-NO_3^-$.

9. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein in formula (1)

10 A and B are the radical of the formula (1b).

10. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the quaternary ammonium compound has the formula



in which

15 R_1, R_2 and B are C_1 - C_8 alkyl;

R_3 is the aliphatic radical of tallow fatty acid; and

X_3^- is a halogen atom.

11. A composition according to claim 1 comprising

(a) a water-soluble phthalocyanine of the formula (5) according to claim 5

20 and

(b) a quaternary ammonium compound of the formula (8) according to claim 10.

12. A composition according to claim 1 comprising

(a) a water-soluble phthalocyanine of the formula (10) according to claim 7

25 and

(b) a quaternary ammonium compound of the formula (8) according to claim 10.

13. A composition according to claim 1, which comprises from 0.0001 to 0.05% by weight of component (a) and from 1 to 20% by weight of component (b).

30 14. A process for the bleaching of textile fiber materials using a photobleaching agent, which comprises treating soiled textiles in a bath of the fabric softener composition comprising

(a) a water-soluble phthalocyanine of Zn, Fe(II), Ca, Mg, Na, K, Al, Si(IV), P(V), Ti(IV), Ge(IV), Cr(VI), Ga(III), Zr(IV), In(III), Sn(IV) or Hf(VI) phthalocyanine; and

(b) a quaternary ammonium compound of the formula (1), with irradiation
5 with visible and/or infrared light or in daylight and in the presence of oxygen, either on the fabric softener bath directly or on the damp textiles outside the fabric softener bath.

15. A fabric softener composition as defined in claim 1 and substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples 1 to 4 or 8.

16. A process for the bleaching of textile fibre materials, using a photobleaching
10 agent, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.

17. A fabric softener composition of any one of claims 1 to 13 wherein the composition includes water.

18. A process of making a fabric softener composition as defined in claim 1
15 which process is substantially as herein described with reference to any one of Examples 1 to 4 or 8.

19. A fabric softener composition of claim 1 made by the process of claim 16.

20. A method of softening a textile fabric comprising rinsing the textile fabric
with a fabric softener composition of claim 15, 17 or 19 for a time sufficient to soften the textile fabric.

Dated 26 March, 2002

Ciba Specialty Chemicals Holding Inc.

Patent Attorneys for the Applicant/Nominated Person

SPRUSON & FERGUSON

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